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include a Quail-Dove, a Grouse (*Dactylortyx*), an Owl, 10 species of Passerine birds, of which several are given the rank of full species.—J. A. A.

**Oberholser on a New Wren from Texas.**—Mr. Oberholser has described<sup>1</sup> the Long-billed Marsh Wren of eastern Texas and Louisiana as *Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*, it differing from *T. palustris* in smaller size, paler and grayer coloration.—J. A. A.

**Hartert's 'Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna.'**<sup>2</sup>—Mr. Hartert's Birds of the Palearctic Fauna is to comprise two volumes of about 650 pages each, to be issued in ten parts, at four marks each, and to be completed during 1905. Part I consists of an introduction of twelve pages and the first 112 pages of the text, and comprises the families Corvidæ, Sturnidæ, Oreolidæ, and the first part of the Fringillidæ, numbering altogether 184 species and subspecies. In the introduction the author clearly defines his attitude as regards 'lumping' and 'splitting,' and on various questions of nomenclature; he takes Linnæus at 1758, adheres strictly to the rule of priority, and employs trinomials in the most approved way for subspecies. These he recognizes with great liberality, but displays much conservatism in respect to genera. For example, under *Acanthis* he would combine *Carduelis*, *Chrysomitris*, *Linota*, *Spinus*, *Astragalinus*, and *Hylocanthus*, and similarly under *Corvus* various allied groups that are often given generic rank. He emphatically disapproves of the supposition that birds can change the color and markings of their plumage without a renewal of the feathers, and in other respects stands in the front rank of the new school.'

Passing now to the systematic portion of the work, the higher groups are briefly characterized, and under the genera there are keys to the species, but, generally, not to the subspecies; there is no generic synonymy, and the citations under the species and subspecies are restricted to the first mention of the names adopted, and their synonyms. The characters of the species are quite fully given, with a brief statement of their geographical ranges, manner of nesting, character of the eggs, etc., and under the subspecies their distinctive characteristics and distribution.

The geographical scope of the work is sufficiently indicated by the title, but the southern boundary of the Palearctic Region is not very sharply definable. In general terms the region includes all of Europe, northern

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of a New *Telmatodytes*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVI, pp. 149, 150, Nov. 12, 1903.

<sup>2</sup> Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Systematische Übersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asian und der Mittelmæerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Ernst Hartert. Heft. I. Mit 22 Abbildungen. Berlin. Verlag von R. Friedländer und Sohn. Ausgegeben in November 1903. Large 8vo, pp. i-xii, 1-112.

Africa to the Sahara, and Asia south to northern Arabia and the Himalayas, and China to about the latitude of Peking. A few North American forms are included when they belong to circumpolar species, for the purpose of completing the account of the group, as in *Pica pica* and the genus *Acanthis* but not in the case of *Corvus corax*, although this species is cited in the introduction as an example of this treatment. It is to be noted that the name *flammea* (*Fringilla flammea* Linn.) is substituted for the familiar *linaria* (*F. linaria* Linn.) for *Acanthis linaria*, on the basis of precedence on the same page. Several subspecies are also here described for the first time.

Although we have a recent popular manual on the birds of the same region, the present work is to be most heartily welcomed as an exposition of the subject from a technically up-to-date standpoint.—J. A. A.

'The Avicultural Magazine.'—'The Avicultural Magazine'<sup>1</sup> is the journal of the Avicultural Society, which has for its object "The study of foreign and British birds in freedom and captivity," exclusive of "Poultry, Pigeons and Canaries."

It is published monthly, forming an annual volume of about 450 pages, with numerous colored and other plates, and also text figures. It is devoted, as the name implies, largely to the habits and rearing of wild birds in captivity, but contains also papers on birds observed in a state of freedom; the present volume including a series of illustrated popular papers by Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote on birds observed by him in the Bahamas (already noticed in this journal, XX, 1903, p. 230); on 'Birds in Towns,' by John Sergeant; 'The Late Rains and their effect on Bird Life' (in England), by E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, etc. Besides the general articles, there are departments for 'Reviews,' 'Bird Notes,' 'Correspondence,' etc.

An interesting note from a bird-dealer on 'British Birds in New Zealand,' states that Goldfinches, Redpolls, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Hedge Sparrows, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Yellow-hammers, Buntings, and Gray Linnets, liberated some twenty-five years ago, have become very abundant so that a catch of "fifteen dozen Goldfinches a day," or seventeen dozen Redpolls, is easily made, while Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Hedge Sparrows may be had in "any quantity."

The magazine is largely taken up, as would be expected, with the habits and care of birds in captivity. There are several very interesting

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<sup>1</sup> The | Avicultural Magazine, | being the Journal of | the Avicultural Society for the Study of | Foreign and British Birds | in Freedom and Captivity. | Edited by | D. Seth-Smith, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. | New Series, Vol. I. | November, 1902 to October, 1903. | London: | R. H. Porter, | 7, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1903. —8vo, pp. i-xx, 1-431, 32 pll. (12 colored) and 18 text figures. Annual membership subscription, 10s.